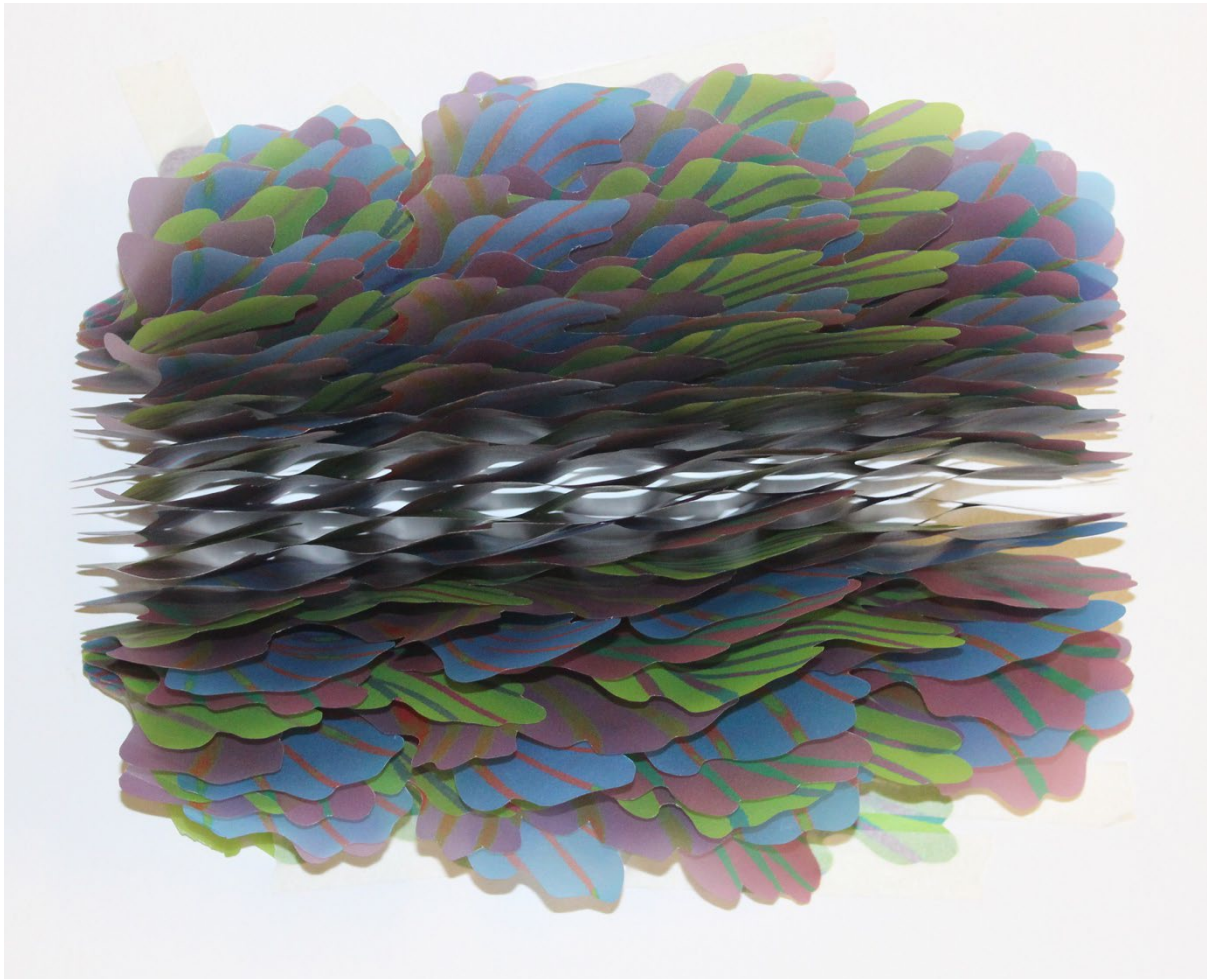


**Glasgow School of Art Course Specification  
Course Title: Foundation Studio 1**



Wu Peiyu *International Foundation* 2023

*Please note that this course specification is correct on the date of publication but may be subject to amendment prior to the start of the 2026-27 Academic Year.*

Course Code	HECOS Code	Academic Session
UINF105A		2026-27

Course Title	Foundation Studio 1
Course Contact	Conor Kelly (C.Kelly@gsa.ac.uk)

Credits	30
SCQF Level	7
When Taught	Semester 1

Associated Programmes	International Foundation
Lead School	School of Fine Art
Other Schools	N/A
Date of Approval	Programme Approval February 2024

### Course Introduction

Foundation Studio 1 is designed to support students' first experiences of Art & Design studio-based learning in Higher Education. The course introduces the study of Art and Design at undergraduate level and provides students with a range of opportunities to investigate the full range and potential of their creative practices.

Student learning is supported through workshops and assigned projects that prioritise 2D, 3D and digital making to develop a greater understanding of the creative process. The course provides first-hand experiences of a studio environment where students can explore a range of creative approaches and techniques. Students discover different ways of gathering information and are introduced to the concept of primary and secondary research. The course has a diagnostic function which supports students as they reflect on their abilities, aptitudes and creative potential. The course is designed to enable students' understanding of the nature of their creative process to help determine what specialist areas of study they might be best suited to.

Throughout the course, students will encounter the concept of 'thinking-through-making', where process and the 'journey of making' is prioritised over the delivery of final outcomes. 'Thinking-through-making' requires students to embrace the unpredictable nature of using new materials and creative approaches through evolving and iterative making.

Each student develops a digital portfolio of their studio work that documents their creative journey and showcases their emerging interests. Students who participate in the course develop a basic knowledge of studio-based learning before developing a greater understanding of specialist study in Foundation Studio 2 (Semester 2).

### Course Aims

The aims of this course are:

- To develop a basic knowledge of studio-based learning and teaching in Art and Design

- To support the development of practical skills through explorative and experimental material making
- To develop the use of primary and secondary research methods
- To increase critical reflection in the context of Art and Design

### **Course Intended Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Apply a basic knowledge of Art and Design in an academic context
- Demonstrate a range of practical skills that support studio-based making
- Make effective use of primary and secondary research to develop project work
- Evidence some analysis, evaluation and self-reflection in relation to their emerging creative practice

### **Indicative Content**

This 10-week course is delivered in Semester 1 and begins with a workshop-led introduction to the basic processes of 2D, 3D and digital making in a studio environment. Workshops involve students using a variety of media, for example: drawing, painting, printing, fabric manipulation and casting. Each workshop is designed to support the exploration of a range of creative approaches and techniques.

The course also introduces the practice of making work in response to assigned project briefs. These project briefs are scaffolded to support the development of key skills allowing for experimentation with materials and ideas. As part of their project work, students will refine the practice of keeping sketchbooks to document studio work, collect inspiration, and map the development of their creative process.

The course lays a foundation in the effective use of secondary sources of information (including reproductions of images and artefacts, texts photos, film, video or web-based material) to complement the first-hand experiences of the studio environment (primary research).

The Foundation Studio 1 course is taken in tandem with the Creative Communication course in Semester 1.

### **Description of Learning and Teaching Methods**

**Learning and Teaching** is conducted with International Foundation Studio Tutors through a range of activities including studio workshops, lectures, seminars, group tutorials, one-to-one tutorials, progress reviews, and group critical feedback.

Studio workshops provide practical instruction for larger groups of students, while seminars and group tutorials allow for closer participation between smaller groups, typically 3-5. We also offer one-to-one tutorials where individual student needs can be better addressed.

Whilst the programme is focussed on a hands-on studio experience, our learning activities are facilitated through a hybrid blend of in-person and online activities. All learning activities are

published in advance on our virtual learning environment (Canvas). Timetabling and learning resources are also available through Canvas. Students are advised to make regular use of the GSA library and the programme's recommended reading.

Indicative Contact Hours	Notional Learning Hours
103	300

#### Description of Formative Assessment and Feedback Methods

**Formative Assessment** is designed to support the development of each student's creative practice and is an ongoing process undertaken through reviews and tutorials with staff and fellow students. In Week 6, students participate in a **Progress Review** where they submit their coursework to date for assessment to staff and receive verbal and written staff responses that act as feedback. The feedback is constructive and will offer future-oriented options and solutions that students can use to ensure they meet Intended Learning Outcomes.

#### Description of Summative Assessment arrangements

**Summative Assessment** measures the learning of each student. The Summative Assessment determines progress and level of attainment in relation to the Intended Learning Outcomes. Each student submits a digital portfolio of all Foundation Studio 1 coursework in Week 13. The submission should contain annotated images of all primary investigations and secondary research alongside a 250-word self-evaluation of their experiences and the work produced during the course. Submissions will be assessed and moderated in line with the code of assessment. Reassessment opportunities where a student has not passed the course are outlined in the code of assessment

Description of Summative Assessment Method	Weight %	Submission week
Digital portfolio of work alongside a 250-word self-evaluation.	100	13

#### Exchange/Study Abroad

Can this course be taken by Exchange/Study Abroad students?	No
Are all the students on the course taught wholly by distance learning?	No
Does this course represent a work placement or a year of study abroad?	No
Is this course collaborative with any other institutions?	No
If yes, then please provide the names of the other teaching institutions	

#### Reading and On-line Resources

An accessible and updated resource list can be found on [Resource Lists](#).